

Course Detail

Masters of Arts Program in Social Innovation and Sustainability

Course Title:	Masters of Arts Program in Social Innovation and Sustainability (International Program)
Master Degree:	Masters of Arts (Social Innovation and Sustainability)
Academic Institution:	School of Global Studies, Thammasat University
Duration:	1 year (August 2022 – July 2023) Semester 1 August – December Semester 2 January – May Summer June - July

Background and Rational:

The Masters of Arts in Social Innovation and Sustainability is a unique graduate-level program that defines sustainability and social innovation from a socio-political perspective. It combines innovation, sustainability analysis and business management within the context of cross-sector collaboration and inter-regional and international capacity building.

The program is administered by the School of Global Studies, which is committed to the promotion of international collaboration in education and research by creating and sustaining partnerships based on the principles of equity, transparency, inquiry, mutual interest and respect, all of which are embedded in the master's program.

Using the case study method, the principles of sound business management and the development of practical applications to real-world problems, the program is tailor-made for collaborative learners and innovative thinkers who appreciate cultural diversity, interdisciplinary understanding and creative problem-solving. The program has as its focus on global sustainability, development, management and the challenges of human security through social innovation and human-centred design.

The Master's program in Social Innovation and Sustainability has been specifically designed to enhance the learner's knowledge, ability and skills to navigate and succeed in today's increasingly complex and interconnected world.

In a rapidly changing and interconnected world, students will gain critical skills to increase your competitive edge for employment mobility in the future global job market. Our classroom and non-classroom environments ensure learning that instils competencies, including critical thinking, leadership, communication, time management, teamwork ability, problem-solving, creativity, adaptability, and business skills.

The School of Global Studies is a new and innovative academic initiative within Thammasat University and a front-runner in global health and social innovation within Thailand, Southeast Asia and beyond. It has a track record of excellent research on determinants of the public's health, student-centred teaching, and academic service relevant to community needs.

The school enjoys a unique position of being a national, regional and global focal point for global studies, human security and wellbeing with collaborative relationships with academic and professional communities.

Instructors in the program are experienced academics, mostly holding PhDs in their field of expertise. They have a wide range of backgrounds and draw on extensive research as well as professional experience.

The program will be held at the Tha Prachan campus of Thammasat on the weekend and evenings to enable working professionals to join the program as students.

Objectives:

1. The program has the following objectives:
2. Understand the challenges facing the world from a global and local level.
3. Learn how to apply approaches to social innovation to address pressing social issues.
4. Develop the necessary critical thinking skills to identify and solve social problems.
5. Develop skills in sustainability analysis and learn how to develop and implement sustainability in practices in organizations.
6. Learn how to apply human-centred design to develop products and services that respond to social needs and sustainable development goals.
7. Develop leadership, management and collaboration skills necessary for creating cultures of innovation.

Course Synopsis and Methodology:**1. Study plan****Study Plan for Plan A (A2)**

The first year: Semester 1	
GS601 Sustainability and the Global Political Economy	3 Credit
GS603 Approaches to Social Innovation	3 Credit
GS611 Research and Design Thinking	3 Credit
GS613 Designing Organizations for Impact	3 Credit
GS621 Seminar on Social Innovation and Sustainability	3 Credit
Total	15 Credit

The first year: Semester 2	
GS741 Research Method for Social Innovation and Sustainability	3 Credit
GS742 Prospectus Development	3 Credit
GS743 Introduction to Philosophy of Social Science	3 Credit
GS800 Thesis	6 Credit
Total	15 Credit

Summer	
GS800 Thesis	6 Credit
Total	36 Credit

Study Plan for Plan B

The first year: Semester 1	
GS601 Sustainability and the Global Political Economy	3 Credit
GS603 Approaches to Social Innovation	3 Credit
GS611 Research and Design Thinking	3 Credit
GS613 Designing Organizations for Impact	3 Credit
GS621 Seminar on Social Innovation and Sustainability	3 Credit
Total	15 Credit

The first year: Semester 2	
GS731 Project Management and Impact Assessment	3 Credit
GS752 Behavioral Economics for Sustainability	3 Credit
GS753 Strategic Leadership for Social Transformation	3 Credit
2 Subject of Prescribed Elective Course	6 Credit
Total	15 Credit

Summer	
GS790 Independent Study	6 Credit
Total	36 Credit

2. Course Content

Course Descriptions

1) Compulsory Courses

GS601 Sustainability and the Global Political Economy 3 (3-0-9)

Using the UN SDG framework, the course examines the major global and local sustainability challenges and pathways towards achieving the SDGs. Students examine the role of various state and non-state actors in creating a sustainable world. Moreover, students learn to apply theories and frameworks to understand the political-economic dimensions of global and local sustainability challenges and how state and non-state actors can navigate them to achieve the SDGs. Strong consideration is given to the challenges and opportunities that emerge from global interconnection.

GS603 Approaches to Social Innovation 3 (3-0-9)

This course introduces students to the theories, strategies, and processes of social innovation and social change. Students learn about sociological and anthropological theories of social change while also learning about various strategic approaches to societal change. Importantly, the course also draws on business theories of innovation such as disruptive innovation and platform business models and examines their potential for driving social change through market mechanisms. Through case studies, students study individuals, groups and organizations who have catalyzed positive social change through the market, government, and non-profit organizational channels.

GS611 Research and Design Thinking 3 (3-0-9)

This course provides students with the foundational skills of social science research and design thinking to prepare students to conduct academic research as well as research for practical social innovation research projects. Students learn about qualitative and quantitative research methods and tools to design and execute research projects. Students develop skills in ethnographic methods and conceptual tools used to engage in place-based social inquiry. The course will also provide a theoretical and practical explanation about the research, sampling, data collection, field-visit, interviewing, and details about ethical issues, questionnaires, data analysis and other relevant issues.

GS613 Designing Organizations for Impact**3 (3-0-9)**

Students study the structure and dynamics of organizational systems and learn to design organization structures and create impactful cultures aligned with strategic goals. Consideration is given to the external environment, technology, organizational structure (and their interrelationship), organizational culture and change management. The course also covers innovative business models, financing organizations, and innovation culture. Students learn to recognize, manage and overcome bottlenecks hampering organizational growth, achievement of strategic organizational, and delivering social impact. Students also learn about enterprise models and innovative financing mechanisms that support social impact projects.

GS621 Seminar on Social Innovation and Sustainability**3 (3-0-9)**

In this course, students develop practical skills for understanding sustainability challenges and developing social innovations through a variety of workshops and practical experience. To complement the academic and theoretical knowledge and skills acquired in other courses, students engage in practical design and entrepreneurial workshops to produce social innovation and sustainable solutions. They have the opportunity to engage with and learn first-hand from social entrepreneurs and innovators who are active in creating solutions for pressing societal and environmental challenges.

2) Only for students Plan A**GS741 Research Method for Social Innovation and Sustainability****3 (3-0-9)**

The goal of 'Research Methods for social innovation and sustainability' is to learn how research is being done, and to put that knowledge into practice. Students will learn how to apply a great number of tools and techniques, draw conclusions from the research. It will describe both qualitative and quantitative research, their design, problems and tools to investigate. As a general course on research methodology, it will provide the theoretical and practical explanation about the research, sampling, data collection, field-visit, interviewing, and details about ethical issues, questionnaires, data analysis and other relevant issues. It is expected that this course will enable the participants to take advanced research with sound technical knowledge about methodology.

GS742 Prospectus Development**3 (3-0-9)**

Prospectus Development enables students to read and discuss academic publications of their choice related to their thesis topic. Readings are analyzed and critiqued through regular class discussions and presentations. Students learn to move from analysis of literature to the development of research questions and the formulation of a research proposal.

GS743 Introduction to Philosophy of Social Science**3(3-0-9)**

The introductory course provides an overview of ontological and epistemological traditions and their implications for contemporary social science. It covers paradigmatic traditions-programmatic and methodological standpoints. The course also provides an overview of methodological implications and strategies. The course illustrates the building blocks of social science, descriptive strategies, traditions of interpretation, forms of aggregation and strategies of inference, forms of explanation and explanatory strategies. The course concludes with the controversies within the field of philosophy of science.

3) Only for students Plan B

GS731 Project Management and Impact Assessment 3 (3-0-9)

This course equips students with the fundamentals skills, tools and concepts of project management so students can successfully develop, execute and manage an impactful project. Students learn to skillfully manage their resources, schedules, risks, and scope to produce the desired outcome. In this course, students explore project management with a practical, hands-on approach through case studies and class exercises. Students also learn various methods of monitoring and evaluating projects. Moreover, they develop a critical understanding of environmental and social impact assessment tools so the outcome of social innovation projects can be anticipated and measured.

GS752 Behavioral Economics for Sustainability 3 (3-0-9)

In this course, students are introduced to Behavior Economics and learn how to apply to shape sustainable practices at an individual, community and organisational level. Through this course, students also develop skills in applied social psychology and cross-cultural communication. Case studies of successful interventions are examined. For the course project and major assessment, students develop a sustainable behaviour change intervention using concepts and tactics studied in the course.

GS753 Strategic Leadership for Social Transformation 3 (3-0-9)

In this course, students develop strategic leadership skills. They learn how to create and articulate a strategic vision for organisational and social change. The course examines the tasks, skills and strategic competencies that enable a strategic leader to guide social transformation while navigating the tensions between stakeholders and short and long term needs and goals.

4) Prescribed Elective Course

GS762 Seminar on Sustainability Practices 3 (3-0-9)

In this course, students acquire competencies in sustainability defined as “the capability of an organization to transparently manage its responsibilities for environmental stewardship, social well-being, and economic prosperity over the long-term while being held accountable to its stakeholders.” Through this course, students learn how to develop and execute sustainable organisational practices through studying a range of case studies. Students are expected to study local enterprises and learn first-hand from corporate leaders endeavouring to develop sustainable enterprises.

GS763 Technology for Sustainable Development 3 (3-0-9)

The aim of this course is to examine the role of technology in fostering sustainable development in emerging economies. The course focuses on digital technologies and new enterprise models powered by digital technologies. Students examine digital divides and how to create more inclusive digital economies. Additionally, through various case studies, students learn how to leverage digital technologies such as new media, blockchain and platform technologies to solve various societal and environmental challenges. Students will examine how various Thai and Southeast Asian NGOs, social enterprises and start-ups use technology to achieve their impact goals.

GS772 Design Skills for Projects**3 (3-0-9)**

This course is a dive deep into the personal and cultural leadership essentials required to implement effective innovation and design thinking initiatives. Students will explore transferable tools and contemporary conversations about the opportunities and challenges of driving change in the 21st century. This course will specifically focus on internal and external dimensions for design and innovation leadership including: the role of self-awareness and empathy, creative innovation mindsets, effective facilitation methods to unlock insights among stakeholders, creative confidence, and project management for complex organizational systems (from hyper-local to globally distributed teams). Students will gain a sharpened set of strategic skills and insights ready for immediate application to their daily life at work and home.

GS773 Design for Impact and Disruption**3 (3-0-9)**

Designers can contribute to the social and environmental challenges. In this course, the students will be exposed to and applied methods that are utilized to expand creative possibilities in products, services and systems in a responsible manner. Students will be equipped with design tools in a train-the-trainer format across a series of workshop style classrooms with real-world case studies.

GS782 Reengineering CSR**3 (3-0-9)**

CSR assumes many forms from shared value, social and corporate governance (ESG), corporate citizenship, ethical corporation and etc. It has a significant role in sustainability in a globalized world not only within the organization but extends to national context and beyond. This course will trace how the concept of CSR has evolved and adopted in the business sector as well as viewed by society at large. This course will explore how CSR can fulfill its landscape in the sustainability arena for the greater goods among practitioners in private sector, government and non-governmental organization.

GS783 Ethical Decision Making**3 (3-0-9)**

Poor moral judgment can ruin a manager's career. It can even sink an entire company. Accordingly, in today's volatile and fiercely competitive business environment, a manager must possess not only technical and communication skills. He or she must also be able to identify and effectively resolve ethical issues that inevitably arise in the pursuit of business (and career) objectives. That is, a manager must be able to make business decisions that are defensible ethically as well as economically. This course is designed to enhance students' skills in moral reasoning as it applies to managerial decision-making. This course will also include issues of ethics and corporate culture. In many cases, the unethical behavior is due in part to a "toxic" corporate culture. The attitudes, values, and practices that prevail in the organizations induce otherwise ethical employees to take actions that violate widely shared norms of conduct. The course will bring concepts of behavior, its impact and alternative to the attitude of "only results matter".

5) Elective subject

GS666 Digital and Social Media Strategy

3 (3-0-9)

Digital/social platforms present firms with enormous opportunities for creating and enhancing value for both themselves and stakeholders such as customers. How these communications technologies can—and should—be used for strategic value-generating purposes, however, is not straightforward. This course grapples with this challenge, with the primary aim being to help students understand how to unlock the value in digital/social platforms across a variety of business contexts and for a number of markedly different purposes. The role that digital/social platforms can play goes well beyond marketing, or as a new vehicle for (or substitute to) advertising. Thus, this is not, strictly speaking, a “marketing” course. Rather, it is a course about how digital and social media can be used to enhance business value.

GS677 Communication for Innovation

3 (3-0-9)

This course will examine the relationships between communication and innovation and highlights the importance of communication as a precursor to innovation and sustainable change. The course will also structure the principles of communications and relate with the global changes. In a specific way, it will link with marketing and entrepreneurship while emphasizing the techniques and principles of human relations, leadership and business communication both oral and written and new communication tools. Through the use of active learning tools, students will enhance their skills in communicating the designing processes to their stakeholders including the skills in conversations.

GS685 Dialogues for Competitive Advantage

3 (3-0-9)

Creating change that disrupts the status quo may pose challenges in leveraging its influence among key stakeholders. Communicating the outcomes and their impact requires a set of skills beyond the common communication techniques. This course will equip the students with negotiation techniques in order to engage in effective dialogues with stakeholders. Through the use of verbal communication, problem solving and interpersonal skills, the students will learn to be an effective influencer. Adopting active learning tools, the students will develop negotiation skills across different scenarios.

GS688 Managing the Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy

3 (3-0-9)

The course includes the management of Nonprofit Sector. Managing an NGO is an especially challenging endeavor as it requires not only interpersonal skills to deal with a wide range of people (stakeholders), but it also requires a broad knowledge of how communities and society work. It is not just about doing good, but also making sure actions do not cause unintended consequences and the organization remains sustainable. This course will give you an overview of 31 the many facets an NGO manager must face each day. The course is divided into two basic sections: Theory and Practice. Theory will cover a broad range of topics to give you a firm understanding of how things go wrong, the different sectors in society, how managers prioritize requests on their time and resources (stakeholder theory), and lastly how to apply business planning to an NGO.

6) Thesis
GS800 Thesis

12
Credit

The thesis, under Plan A, is an individual student project to demonstrate his/her ability to formulate, investigate, and analyse a problem in a practice setting. Students choose a topic, relevant to the field of sustainability, social innovation, development or business. The research with specific study focus, will be advised and approved by the advisors, who would agree to supervise and evaluate the students' work. The thesis project includes research design, field level research, desk research, application of various research methodologies and tools, and extensive analysis of acquired data. Participation in seminars and academic conference is an integral part of students' thesis work. Students need to defend their thesis proposal prior to conduct the research. The project has to meet the academic criteria of clear knowledge contribution, neutral framing, objective investigation and ethical approach.

7) Independent Study
GS790 Independent Study

6 Credit

The independent study is a continuation of the capstone experience for students in Plan-B of the MASS program, which uses the knowledge and skills acquired during the course of study leading to the Master's degree. This study is designed to introduce students to the process of reporting on their independent study projects and practical activities. Students will formulate an appropriate report on their independent study project. Seminars will afford students the opportunity for peer review and instructors' feedback.

Graduation Conditions:

Plan A (A2)

- 1) Complete all subjects following the course structure and have cumulative credits at least 36 credits.
- 2) GPA not less than 3.00
- 3) Pass (P) an English language exam following Thammasat University criteria before thesis examination.
- 4) Thesis proposed and passed the interview session (speaking test) by School of Global Studies committee upon opening system for people who interested.
- 5) Get "S" level for thesis exam and submit the complete thesis which following a university regulation concerning thesis, thesis paper and independent research.
- 6) Thesis or part of thesis must be published or implementing thesis or part of thesis to be accepted for publication in qualify international journal, following Office of Higher Education Commission announcement entitled "Consideration criteria for academic journal for academic work publication or nominated to international academic conference" with full-paper article which published in the conference report.
- 7) Following both School of Global Studies and Thammasat University regulations.
- 8) All the payment being paid to a university.

Plan B

1) Complete all subjects following the course structure and have cumulative credits at least 36 credits

2) GPA not less than 3.00

3) Pass (P) the Comprehensive Examination

4) Pass (P) an English language exam following Thammasat University criteria before independent research interview (speaking session)

5) Independent research proposed and passed the interview session (speaking test) by School of Global Studies committee upon opening system for people who interested

6) Get "S" level (Fair) for independent research exam and submit complete independent research which following a university regulation concerning thesis, thesis paper and independent research.

7) Independent research report or part of independent research report must publish on website or some way that can be reached

8) Following both School of Global Studies and Thammasat University regulations.

9) All the payment being paid to a university

Applicant Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree in all branches of social sciences, humanities, science and technology, applied science and hygiene in Thailand or educational institutions abroad which endorsed by the university council.

2. GPA at least 2.75

3. Applicants must qualify as appeared in Thammasat University Regulations on Graduate Studies, 2018.

4. English efficiency: can be obtained from one of the following criteria.

1) TOEFL paper-based (PBT) 550

2) TOEFL Internet-based (IBT) 79

3) TOEFL Institutional Testing Program (ITP) 550

4) IELTS 6.5

5) TU-GET paper-based (PBT) 550

6) TU-GET computer-based (CBT) 79

5. Internship and education support experiences would be appreciated.

Document Required:

- TIPP Application and Medical Report: <https://tica-thaigov.mfa.go.th/en/page/75500-tipp-application-form?menu=605b13dbb6f1b76ed31778b3>

- Transcript

- Recommendation Letter

- English Test

- Financial Statement (only for international applicants)

- Visa (only for international applicants)

- identification (copy of a passport)

Contact:

- Assistant Professor Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit, Dean for The School of Global Studies

E-mail: prapaporn@sgs.tu.ac.th

- Dr. Dipendra K C, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs

E-mail: dipendra@sgs.tu.ac.th

- Dr. Daniel McFarlane, Director for Masters of Arts Program in Social Innovation and Sustainability

E-mail: daniel@sgs.tu.ac.th

Coordinator:

- Dr. Dipendra K C, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs

E-mail: dipendra@sgs.tu.ac.th

- Miss Yanisa Kruavit, Foreign Affairs Officer

E-mail: yanisak@sgs.tu.ac.th

For more information:

Human Resources Development Cooperation Division

Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)

Government Complex, Building B (South Zone), 8th Floor,

Chaengwattana Rd. Laksi District, Bangkok 10210 THAILAND

Tel. +66 (2) 203 5000 ext. 43305, 43306 Fax: +66 (2) 143 8451

E-mail: tipp@mfa.mail.go.th

***The application procedure will complete when TICA has received the hard copy of the application form and other related documents through the Royal Thai Embassy/Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations/Royal Thai Consulate – General accredited to eligible countries/territories.